CLAIMS

1. A shift lever mechanism comprising a housing, a lever having a longitudinal axis, pivoting means adapted to facilitate pivoting of the lever into a plurality of pivoted gear selection positions, and biasing means, disposed on the lever, operable to bias the lever into at least one biased neutral position.

2. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim1, wherein the biasing means is disposed on the lever coaxially therewith.

3. A shift lever mechanism comprising a housing, a lever having a longitudinal axis, pivoting means adapted to facilitate pivoting of the lever into a plurality of positions, and biasing means operable to bias the lever into at least one biased position, characterised in that the biasing means is operable to apply a biasing force in a substantially non-transverse direction relative to the longitudinal axis of the lever.

4. A shift lever mechanism comprising a housing, a lever having a longitudinal axis, pivoting means adapted to facilitate pivoting of the lever into a plurality of positions, and biasing means operable to bias the lever into at least one biased position, characterised in that the biasing means is adapted to apply a biasing force operable to oppose displacement of the lever in any direction.

5. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the housing comprises a longitudinal axis and the direction of the applied biasing force is substantially that of the longitudinal axis of the housing.

6. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein, in the biased position, the longitudinal axis of the lever lies substantially in the same direction as the biasing force is applicable.

CLAIMS

1. A shift lever mechanism (10) comprising, a lever (16), pivoting means (24) adapted to facilitate pivoting of the lever (16) from a neutral position into a plurality of pivoted gear selection positions, and biasing means (26), disposed on the lever (16) coaxially therewith and operable to bias the lever into said neutral position,
characterised in that the biasing means (26) comprises a first element (46) having a bearing face (47), a second element (48), disposed co-axially with the lever (16), having an end face (67) and a biasing face (69), a third element (50), disposed on the lever (16) and fixed thereto to extend radially outwards therefrom, and a biasing element (52), disposed co-axially with the lever, and arranged to extend between the biasing face (69) and the third element (50), wherein, upon pivoting the lever(16), from the neutral position in to a gear selection position, the second element end face(69) bears onto the first element bearing face (47) to produce a returning biasing force which, by way of the biasing element (52) and the third element (50), is applied to the lever (16) and thereby biases the lever into the neutral position.

2. A shift lever mechanism, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second element is displaceable along part of the lever in the direction of the longitudinal axis thereof.

3. A shift lever mechanism, as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the biasing means is operable to provide omni-directional biasing of the lever.

4. A shift lever mechanism, as claimed in any of the preceding claims, comprising a housing (12) having an abutment (56) on which the first element is disposed.

5. A shift lever mechanism, as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the biasing element (52) is a spring.

6. A shift lever mechanism, as claimed in any of the preceding claims, comprising second biasing means (72).

7. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the pivoting means is disposed intermediate the first and second biasing means.

8. A shift lever mechanism as claimed in Claim 6 or 7, wherein the second biasing means is substantially the same as the first biasing means and is arranged on the lever to be reciprocally operable with the first biasing means.